

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 IO-13 AID-20 RSR-01 /122 W
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R 220730 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3939

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0611

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPFOR MP BG

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ENVOY TO MAURITIUS FROM BANGLADESH

REF: PORT LOUIS A-36, FEBRUARY 22, 1972 RPT 1972

1. FAKHRUDDIN AHMED, SECRETARY OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BANGLADESH, AND SPECIAL ENVOY OF SHEIK MUJIBUR, LEFT MAURITIUS JUNE 20 AFTER SHORT STAY. AHMED VISITED MAURITIUS AT CONCLUSION OF TRIP THROUGH SOME TEN ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES, IN WHICH HE SOUGHT SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH POSITION IN FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF 197 PAKISTANI PRISONERS ON WAR CRIME CHARGES.

2. AHMED MET WITH PRIME MINISTER AND SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENT MINISTERS. HE WAS REPORTEDLY DISCOURAGED FROM SPEAKING PUBLICLY ON WAR CRIME SUBJECT BY FONMIN DUVAL, WHO SENSITIVE TO FEELINGS OF SOME MAURITIAN MOSLEMS OF BIHARI ORIGIN AND WHO HE CULTIVATING FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS.

3. IN PRESS CONFERENCE PRECEDING HIS DEPARTURE, AHMED EXPRESSED HIS COUNTRY'S WILLINGNESS ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. CONCERNING MAURITIUS, HE SPECULATED BANGLADESH
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INDUSTRIALISTS MIGHT ESTABLISH JUTE FACTORY HERE. ALSO SAID
WOULD RECOMMEND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MAURITIAN STUDENTS. AHMED
STATED THAT BANGLADESH ANTICIPATED INSTALLING A DIPLOMATIC
MISSION IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRY WHICH WOULD HAVE JURISDICTION
OVER MAURITIUS. HE NOTED BANGLADESH' S ADHERENCE TO " POSITIVE
NEUTRALISM" AND INDIAN OCEAN REGIONS OF PEACE.

4. COMMENT: AHMED WAS TAKEN IN HAND AND FETED BY INDIAN HIGH
COMMISSION HERE. HOWEVER, AS FORMER PAK DIPLOMAT, HE HAD BEEN
COLLEAGUE IN ISLAMABAD OF BOTH PRESENT PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR
TO MAURITIUS AND HIS FIRST SECRETARY. LATTER TOOK RELAXED
ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS SPECIAL MISSION AND EXPRESSED PROFESSIONAL
ADMIRATION FOR AHMED HIMSELF.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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